



**MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
7506 E. INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD
COMMUNITY DESIGN STUDIO - NAVE
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2007**

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT:

Art DeCabooter, Chair
Erik Filsinger, Vice-Chair
Joan Fudala, Commissioner (arrived 5:08 p.m.)
Melinda Gulick, Commissioner
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner
Virginia Korte, Commissioner
Gerry Miller, Commissioner
Arnold Roy, Commissioner
Tom Silverman, Commissioner
Linda Whitehead, Commissioner
Solange Whitehead, Commissioner (arrived 5:08 p.m.)

STAFF PRESENT:

Claire Miller, McDowell Sonoran Preserve Manager
Scott Hamilton, Trails Planner
Don Meserve, Preservation Planner
Lisa Gurtler, Financial Services

ALSO PRESENT:

Ruthie Carll, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, Managing Director
Carla
Dan Gruber
Deke Joralman

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman DeCabooter called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Roll call and introductions indicated members and guests present as stated above.

2. **Approval of March 1, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

VICE-CHAIR FILSINGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2007 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION MEETING. COMMISSIONER HUBBELL SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF NINE (9) TO ZERO (0).

3. **State Land Reform Approach**

Carla reported that Representative John Nelson introduced HCR 2039 to the State Senate. If approved by a public vote, the measure would set aside 197,000 acres of urban and ex-urban land to be purchased at appraised value without having to go to auction. Communities would have 25 years to pay for the land after committing to a purchase agreement. Purchases would be made using monetary compensation, not value exchanges of state land for state land. Scottsdale would have to arrive at a purchase agreement for the reclassified State Trust lands within the planned Preserve boundary by 2012.

The bill was kept simple in order to avoid the issues that prevented Prop 106 from passing. The Arizona Education Association has expressed concern that there is no oversight and no way to determine if the state is getting fair value for the property. The Governor has expressed support for the measure, and the intent is to approve it in time for the 2008 ballot.

4. **McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Activities**

Ms. Carll said that the board recruitment process is nearly complete. The Board's annual retreat will be held on April 28. Additionally, an Executive Committee, consisting of long-time stewards, has been voted into office and will begin on July 1.

The MSC Board of Directors has unanimously approved to pay for new metal trailhead map signs as a gift to the City.

Seventy-five volunteers completed 2.4 miles of the Reata Wash trail on Tuesday, April 3. Five organizations took part in the trail building project. The event received a lot of press coverage and generated 30 requests for participation in future activities. One consideration would be to use future quarterly work projects as recruitment tools. The 433 hours of volunteerism represents the equivalent of an \$8,000 donation to the City.

5. **Desert Discovery Center (DDC) Task Force Activities**

Commissioner Silverman reported that the study scope of work is nearly complete. The intent is to submit a funding request to City Council before their summer break.

Commissioner Gulick added that Phase 1, which includes the market study and the concept, would be presented at the May MSPC meeting. Phase 2 includes a fundraising feasibility study, business plans, and governing structure.

6. **Planning Committee Activities**

Vice-Chair Filsinger said several work groups have been working to formulate proposals for the Planning Committee. The Northern Access group is working with staff to further specify the placements of parking lots and trailheads. The Trail Connectivity group is working in the northern area to ensure the Preserve's trail system matches up with the County's. The Operational Concerns group is working to establish methods of dealing with issues such as motor vehicles, illegal dumping and pet defecation problems.

7. **Invasive Plant Brochure**

Commissioner Miller presented a proposed brochure that would be distributed in conjunction with the Fire Department. An effort has also been made to recruit Arizona State University students to help with a plant survey.

Commissioner Linda Whitehead inquired what the intended distribution of the brochure would be. Commissioner Miller responded that the full details are unclear but the Fire Department intends to distribute them during visits to homeowner's associations.

8. **Permanent Trailhead Map Signs**

Mr. Hamilton presented diagrams of the proposed trailhead map signs to be placed at five trailheads on two metal posts. A sign material sample was passed around. The metal signs have been guaranteed by the maker not to fade for at least ten years or they will replace the signs. An acknowledgment of MSC's donation would be included on the signs.

The donation allows the money saved from the printing budget to be applied to the printing of 10,000 individual trail maps. The new maps would be distributed from waterproof boxes at the trailheads. Mr. Hamilton reported that 7,500 trail maps have been distributed previously.

In response to an inquiry from Carla, Mr. Hamilton responded that the Old Jeep Trail has been designated on the map by that name to show the people that are choosing to use this trail how it integrates with the rest of the system.

9. **Preserve Director's Report**

Mr. Cafarella was unavailable to give this report.

10. **Preserve Manager's Report**

Ms. Miller reported that the pathfinders are looking forward to having the new trail maps available to distribute to the public. An Earth Day related event will occur on Saturday, April 21, to build a new 3/4 mile segment of trail connecting DC Ranch to the Windgate Pass Trail.

Commissioner Solange Whitehead is coordinating a corporate volunteer project with employees of J. P. Morgan Chase, to be held on Sunday April 29.

11. **Future Executive Session for McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission**

COMMISSIONER FUDALA MOVED TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MAY 3, 2007, TO DISCUSS AND CONSULT WITH ROBERT CAFARELLA, THE COMMISSION'S DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE, TO CONSIDER THE COMMISSION'S POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVE WITH RESPECT TO THE PURCHASE, SALE OR LEASE FOR INCLUSION IN THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED STUDY BOUNDARY FOR THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE STATE TRUST LAND THAT IS RECLASSIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR CONSERVATION UNDER THE ARIZONA PRESERVE INITIATIVE, AND THE STATE TRUST LAND THAT IS NOT RECLASSIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR CONSERVATION UNDER THE ARIZONA PRESERVE INITIATIVE. ARS 38-431.03 (A) (3) and (A) (7). COMMISSIONER SILVERMAN SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF ELEVEN (11) TO ZERO (0).

12. **Commissioner Comments and Public Comments**

Mr. Meserve spoke about a private property issue stemming from a mining claim on Gold Hill in the Desert Mountain area. Gold Hill and the Continental Mountains are in Scottsdale but they are not within the planned Preserve boundary. The city received complaints this week from residents in Tonto Hills about the Old Mine Road being repaired and maintained. It appears that there is interest in mining the old mining claims on top of Gold Hill.

13. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Commissioner Gulick suggested that the DDC scope of work report be added to the May agenda, as well as a discussion on possible temporary access to the Bell Pass and Windgate Trails during the Gateway Access Area construction of the permanent parking area.

14. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc.